

ER Unit Meeting – Oct. 7, 2014

### **Hotwash – Bakken Warehouse Fire**

OSC Paul Peronard presented the Hot Coffee - Hot Wash for the Red River Supply Warehouse Fire Site in Williston, North Dakota. This large, very hot fire (hot enough to melt concrete) involved a warehouse that stored chemicals used in oil well development and production and also included expansion products to help with fracking.

Response to the fire was complicated by Williston's sudden growth in the last decade; from a population of 5,000 in 2009 to its current population of 60,000 as a result of the Bakken oil field development. After recognizing that the fire could not be put out with water, the local volunteer fire department decided to let the fire burn itself out. EPA was asked to assist with air monitoring (particulates) and sampling and helped to consolidate multi-agency data collection and display capability using viewer technology.

The OSC also talked about lessons learned including the need to test in advance how to display data from every piece of monitoring equipment available to ER using VIPER technology. Plans are already in place to implement this fix with OSC/START/ERT workshops on Dec. 2 and 3.

On October 21, Pete Stevenson will present the next Hot Wash on the Aero Pipeline Site which resulted in a brine spill into a tributary of Lake Sakakawea in North Dakota. Steve Merritt/Curtis Kimbel will present the November 4<sup>th</sup> Hot Wash on the SW Energy – Ruby Ranch Road Blowout in Green River, Utah.

A discussion was held around who OSCs needed to contact for after-hour responses during evenings and weekends. Joyce Ackerman said that OSCs were expected to use their warrant authority during after-hour responses and there was not an urgency to contact a contract officer unless there was a need to exceed the \$250,000 warrant authority limit. Richard Braun's name (the primary contract officer contact) and phone number were added to the emergency phone/response duty roster.

Joyce solicited START performance feedback. A discussion ensued concerning performance, value of services, deliverable due dates and follow up, data interpretation or lack thereof, project management, differences on the levels of services expected and received, and other topics. It was suggested that EPA hold a project manager training class for START and workshops were suggested for the already planned December time-frame.

Laura Williams asked that all travel vouchers be signed by respective OSCs ASAP. Gov Trip's contract is expiring, and charges of \$3M a month for service rendered past the contract date will be assessed.

### **Round Robin:**

Duc Nguyen asked that OSCs contact him within the next two months if they have any additional BOR work beyond the IAG calendar year end expiration date.

Steve Merritt mentioned that new equipment has arrived at the warehouse including four RAE Systems AreaRAE networked air monitoring instruments for detecting toxic vapor concentrations around fires and spills. There is still hardware needed to incorporate these into the ER kit, but they can be linked into ERT for larger sites and for backup Region work. Also, we have received two new high-precision Trimble Pathfinder GPS units that provide sub-centimeter accuracy for mapping site features, documenting sampling and monitoring locations and tying data into the Viewer.

Marty mentioned that Viewer technology is available on some OSC websites. Listings are generally at the end of a website such as on the Red River Supply Warehouse Fire Site and noted as: *A Map is available for viewing GIS information.*

Peronard talked about the success of using solar power at Penn Mine to meet electricity generation needs at the site and suggested that this could be employed at other venues.

Shun-Ping Chau said that flu shots for OSCs were now available through FOH (though obtaining the flu shot through your personal provider was being encouraged).